

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
Acting Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

March 9, 2011

Rep. Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chairman
Sen. Eric D. Coleman, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6368 AN ACT CONCERNING RETURN OF STOLEN PROPERTY

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

This proposed bill would raise the threshold at which an inventory must be prepared of items seized that are stolen property from \$250.00 to \$500.00. This change will greatly help members of the Connecticut State Police, as well as other law enforcement officers. An increase in the dollar value will mean less time that a trooper or officer will have to spend seizing, inventorying, filling out paperwork, and then driving to his or her barracks or police department to now log, tag and enter the item into evidence. This additional time spent could be better served with the trooper or officer on patrol, helping citizens that are in need of our assistance. There would also be additional time and money savings as a result of the evidence that will NOT need to be stored and tracked by an evidence officer. This will free up time, and much needed space. This will free up the space to be utilized for more important cases, rather than for those items that just taking up space until the conclusion of a case that is highly unlikely to go to trial.

Passage of this bill will also permit more stolen property recovered by police to be returned to the rightful owner by raising the property value threshold that determines whether the police must file an inventory and retain the property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Col. Danny R. Stebbins".

Colonel Danny R. Stebbins
ACTING COMMISSIONER